



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Raised Bill No. 6796**

LCO No. 4772



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING CATALYTIC CONVERTERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Emergency  
2 Services and Public Protection and Commissioner of Motor Vehicles  
3 shall, individually or jointly, seek to enter into agreements with the  
4 proper authorities of other states to develop a regional approach to  
5 combating the theft of catalytic converters. Such agreements may  
6 include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding the sharing of  
7 information among law enforcement units and regulatory agencies, the  
8 coordination of law enforcement and regulatory activities, the  
9 alignment of laws in the states participating in such agreements to create  
10 a uniform approach to regulating the sale of and punishing the theft of  
11 catalytic converters and any other provisions that may assist in  
12 combating catalytic converter thefts.

13 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Emergency  
14 Services and Public Protection and Commissioner of Motor Vehicles  
15 shall, individually or jointly, in accordance with the provisions of  
16 section 11-4a of the general statutes, report to the joint standing

17 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
18 relating to public safety and security on the result of such attempts to  
19 enter into agreements and any legislation needed to implement such  
20 agreements.

21 Sec. 2. Section 14-99h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
22 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

23 (a) Each new car dealer or used car dealer, prior to the sale of a new  
24 or used motor vehicle with a value of not less than ten thousand dollars,  
25 shall mark the catalytic converter of such vehicle with the complete  
26 vehicle identification number of such vehicle.

27 [(a)] (b) Each new car dealer, [or] used car dealer [, as defined in  
28 section 14-51,] or lessor licensed under the provisions of section 14-15  
29 may offer the purchaser or lessee of a new or used motor vehicle, at the  
30 time of sale or lease, the optional service of etching the complete vehicle  
31 identification number on a lower corner of the windshield and on each  
32 side or rear window in such vehicle. [Prior to July 1, 2022, each such  
33 dealer or lessor may etch the complete vehicle identification number on  
34 any such vehicle in its inventory prior to its sale or lease provided it  
35 specifies the charge for such service separately on the order for the sale  
36 of the motor vehicle as prescribed by the provisions of section 14-62. On  
37 and after July 1, 2022, no] No such dealer or lessor shall etch the  
38 complete vehicle identification number on any vehicle prior to the sale  
39 of or lease of such vehicle without the written consent of the purchaser  
40 or lessee of such vehicle.

41 [(b)] (c) If a new car dealer or used car dealer [, as defined in section  
42 14-51,] offers the purchaser of a new or used motor vehicle, at the time  
43 of sale, the optional service of marking vehicle component parts with  
44 the complete vehicle identification number, the dealer shall specify the  
45 charge for such service separately on the order for the sale of the motor  
46 vehicle as prescribed by the provisions of section 14-62. Each new or  
47 used dealer that sells a motorcycle shall offer to the purchaser to mark  
48 the complete vehicle identification number on the component parts of

49 said motorcycle. Such service shall be subject to the regulations and  
50 standards adopted by the commissioner in accordance with this section.

51 [(c)] (d) Each new car dealer or used car dealer shall charge  
52 reasonable rates for marking a catalytic converter within the state  
53 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, etching services rendered  
54 within the state pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and component  
55 marking services rendered within the state pursuant to subsection (c) of  
56 this section. Each [new car dealer, used car dealer or] lessor shall charge  
57 reasonable rates for etching services [and component parts marking  
58 services] rendered within the state pursuant to [subsections (a) and]  
59 subsection (b) of this section, [and] Each such dealer or lessor shall file  
60 a schedule of such rates with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Each  
61 such dealer or lessor may from time to time file an amended schedule of  
62 such rates with the commissioner. No such dealer or lessor may charge  
63 any rate for such catalytic converter marking, etching services or parts  
64 marking services which is greater than the rates contained in the most  
65 recent schedule filed with the commissioner.

66 [(d)] (e) A motor vehicle dealer, licensed in accordance with section  
67 14-52, and meeting qualifications established by the commissioner, may  
68 verify a manufacturer's vehicle identification number to satisfy any  
69 provision requiring such verification in this chapter, or chapter 246a or  
70 247. Such verification shall be provided in a written affidavit signed by  
71 such a motor vehicle dealer, or such dealer's designee, and submitted to  
72 the commissioner. Such affidavit shall contain a statement that the  
73 manufacturer's vehicle identification number corresponds to such  
74 number (1) on the manufacturer's or importer's certificate of origin, if  
75 the motor vehicle is new, (2) on a current certificate of title, or (3) on a  
76 current motor vehicle registration document. Such affidavit shall also  
77 contain a statement that the vehicle identification number has not been  
78 mutilated, altered or removed.

79 [(e)] (f) Any person violating the provisions of subsection [(c)] (d) of  
80 this section shall be subject to the penalties of false statement, provided  
81 for in sections 14-110 and 53a-157b.

82        ~~[(f)]~~ (g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with  
83 chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section. Such regulations  
84 [may] shall provide standards for (1) the marking of catalytic converter  
85 and other component parts in a secure manner, (2) telephone or online  
86 access to a secure database of vehicles, including motorcycles, catalytic  
87 converters and other parts that have been marked and registered in such  
88 database, and (3) the marking of parts used to replace parts that have  
89 been marked by repairers licensed in accordance with section 14-52.

90        (h) The Insurance Commissioner shall adopt regulations, in  
91 accordance with chapter 54, to establish premium rate reductions for the  
92 owner or lessee of a motor vehicle with a catalytic converter marked in  
93 accordance with this section.

94        (i) For the purposes of this section, "new car dealer" and "used car  
95 dealer" have the same meanings as provided in section 14-51.

96        Sec. 3. Section 14-12r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
97 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

98        Before issuing registration for any motor vehicle that has not been  
99 previously registered in this state, except a new motor vehicle, the  
100 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may require an inspection of the  
101 manufacturer's vehicle identification number. Such an inspection may  
102 be performed at any designated official emissions inspection station or  
103 by any other business or firm authorized by the commissioner to  
104 perform safety inspections in accordance with sections 14-12 and 14-16a  
105 or by any motor vehicle dealer or repairer, licensed in accordance with  
106 section 14-52 and meeting qualifications established by the  
107 commissioner. If the inspection is performed by a licensed dealer or  
108 repairer, and is not performed in connection with an official emissions  
109 inspection, such dealer or repairer may charge a fee to the owner in an  
110 amount not to exceed twenty dollars, provided an affidavit relating to  
111 such inspection is furnished to the commissioner in accordance with the  
112 provisions of subsection ~~[(d)]~~ (e) of section 14-99h, as amended by this  
113 act.

114 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 14-171 of the general statutes is  
115 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
116 *1, 2023*):

117 (c) If the application refers to a vehicle last previously registered in  
118 another state or country, or by an Indian tribe recognized by the United  
119 States Bureau of Indian Affairs, the application shall contain or be  
120 accompanied by: (1) Any certificate of title issued by such other state,  
121 country or Indian tribe; (2) any other information and documents the  
122 commissioner reasonably requires to establish the ownership of the  
123 vehicle and the existence or nonexistence of security interests in it; and  
124 (3) evidence that the manufacturer's identification number of the vehicle  
125 was verified, by a means acceptable to the commissioner, or inspected  
126 by a licensed dealer in accordance with subsection [(d)] (e) of section 14-  
127 99h, as amended by this act.

128 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
129 study the laws relating to catalytic converters in the state. The task force  
130 shall evaluate the impact of the revisions made to such laws by public  
131 act 22-43 and recommend additional revisions to deter catalytic  
132 converter thefts.

133 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

134 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
135 one of whom is a municipal police chief;

136 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
137 whom represents motor vehicle recyclers;

138 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
139 Representatives, who represents scrap metal processors;

140 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who  
141 represents junk dealers or junkyard owners or operators;

142 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
143 Representatives, who represents car dealers;

144 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a  
145 municipal police chief;

146 (7) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
147 or the commissioner's designee;

148 (8) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or the commissioner's  
149 designee; and

150 (9) One person appointed by the Governor.

151 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
152 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
153 of the General Assembly.

154 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
155 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
156 be filled by the appointing authority.

157 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
158 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
159 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
160 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
161 days after the effective date of this section.

162 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
163 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety  
164 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

165 (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report  
166 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
167 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
168 safety and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
169 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
170 submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-99h
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-12r
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-171(c)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) authorize agreements with other states to establish a regional approach to combating catalytic converter thefts, (2) require new and used car dealers to mark the catalytic converters of motor vehicles they sell that are valued at more than ten thousand dollars, and (3) establish a task force to evaluate laws relating to catalytic converters.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*